

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The benefits of agricultural land include food and fiber production, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, psychological well-being of citizens, and enhanced economic and environmental good; and,

Whereas, Noxious weeds now infest 5,742,199 acres of South Dakota's pastures, cropland, and wild areas; and,

Whereas, Every noxious weed-infested acre means lost revenue and additional cost to our already struggling agricultural producers; and,

Whereas, The spread of noxious weeds is among the most serious of threats to biodiversity, and we are only beginning to address the issue; and,

Whereas, The direct economic impact of this infestation is over 80 million dollars. This does not include lower land values, losses from additional soil erosion, loss of soil nutrients, loss of bio-diversity, and loss of recreational opportunities; and,

Whereas, If nothing is controlled, economic loss would be nearly 180 million dollars; and,

Whereas, In the past, support for noxious weed management has been variable and inadequate; and,

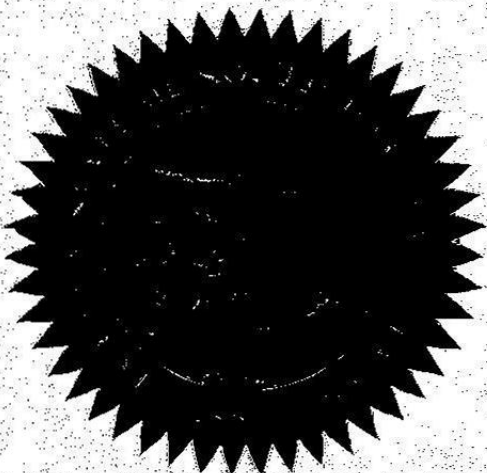
Whereas, Interest, budgets and control have all decreased, and South Dakota cannot afford to ignore this growing threat; and,

Whereas, Without the support of all the people, we will suffer lose in the use and enjoyment of our state agricultural lands:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim June 2004, as

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State